

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 00421 011905Z

41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-20 SY-10 SAB-01 DRC-01 IO-14

/146 W

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P 011800Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3389

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0421

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OCON NU

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN MEXICO

1. DURING A CONVERSATION JAN 31 FOREIGN MINISTER MONTIEL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT EACH OF THE ITEMS ON THE LA AGENDA HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO AN INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND TAKING THE LEAD IN PRESENTING IT AT THE MEXICO CITY MEETING. MONTIEL SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ITEM DEALING WITH REFORMS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. COMMENTING ON THIS TOPIC, MONTIEL SEES NO REASON FOR MAKING ANY MAJOR CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM WHICH WILL REQUIRE NEW TREATIES AND BELIEVES THAT THE MINOR REFORMS NECESSARY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS. MONTIEL INTENDS TO PRESS THIS VIEW IN HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER MINISTERS AND IS HOPEFUL THAT IT WILL BE THE GENERAL CONSENSUS POSITION THAT HE WILL PRESENT AT MEXICO CITY.

2. MONTIEL SAID THE PRESENTATION ON THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION WILL BE MADE BY THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ADDED THAT THE OTHER MINISTERS HE HAD CONFERRED WITH HAVE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS
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PAGE 02 MANAGU 00421 011905Z

TO LET PANAMA DO THE TALKING ON THIS SUBJECT, FEELING THAT IT WOULD

BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR OTHERS TO BECOME INVOLVED WHEN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE.

3. IN GENERAL, MONTIEL THOUGHT THE MEXICO MEETING WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. HE SAID THAT NICARAGUA HAD NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WHICH IT WISHED TO PRESENT BECAUSE IT WAS ABLE TO HANDLE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USA BILATERALLY. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT HAVE SUCH CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE US APPARENTLY FELT A REAL NEED FOR SUCH MULTILATERAL CONTACTS.

4. MONTIEL SAID THAT IT NOW APPEARED THAT THE CA FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD NOT BE MEETING PRIOR TO MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH THE GON HAD AGREED TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN SAN JOSE PROPOSED BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS, THIS WILL APPARENTLY NOT MATERIALIZE PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE ELECTIONS IN COSTA RICA AND GUATEMALA.
SHELTON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.

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30 JUN 2005

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